

**From:** tonymi  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/3/02 2:57pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I believe that the settlement proposed by the DOJ is fair and adequate, and I would like to see it accepted by the court. I believe the demands of the nine holdout states, including my own home state of Kansas, have greatly exceeded the scope of any remedies needed. As I understand it, antitrust settlements aren't supposed to rob the plaintiff of intellectual property, and two of the terms proposed by the holdouts do just that, namely the requirements that Microsoft provide source code for Internet Explorer and license Office for other operating systems.

I also object to the request that Microsoft provide a stripped-down version of Windows. I'm a retired software engineer with 30 years of experience, and I know this idea is just impractical. Features that the holdouts want removed work much more effectively if they are integrated into the operating system, not slapped on as an afterthought. It's analogous to air conditioning on an automobile; factory air always works better than an add-on unit. Smart customers would avoid the product, and customers who did buy it would regret it, so what's the point of forcing Microsoft to produce it? It also runs counter to industry trends; every modern operating system now includes these added features, and customers expect them. If Microsoft is burdened with this requirement, they should be allowed to affix a prominent label saying "This product was designed for you by the Attorneys General of Kansas, California, etc. ... Please forward all complaints to them."

I believe that the AGs of the holdout states only want to prolong the case for political reasons (to placate Microsoft's rivals) or for greed, hoping to somehow milk a windfall from Microsoft. I don't think they are the least bit interested in justice, only in benefiting themselves. Prolonging the case is holding back the high-tech industry, and therefore the entire economy. I request the court to accept the settlement as a fair one, move on, and help our country recuperate.

Thank you,

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